

## **Gippsland Vegetation Types: Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's)**

EVC description derived from Davies et.al (2001) Ecological Vegetation Class Mapping at 1: 25000 in Gippsland.

### **EVC 61 Box Ironbark Forest**

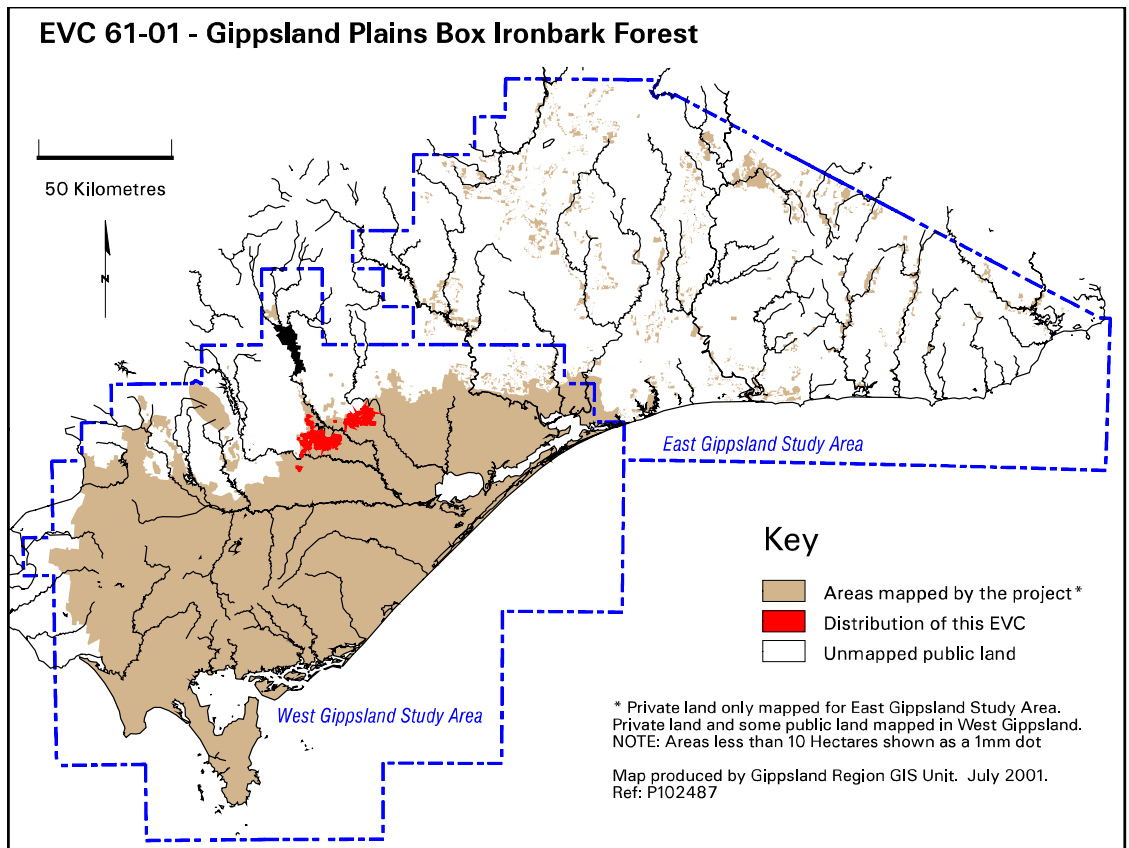
Occurs in low rainfall areas on gently undulating rises, low hills and peneplains ranging from fertile clays to more infertile gravel deposits. An overstorey of Red Ironbark and Red Box is often present over a small tree or shrub mid storey with an open ground layer of herbs and grasses.

#### **Floristic Community 61-01 *Gippsland Plains Box Ironbark Forest***



Box Ironbark Forest along Old Joe's Road. Photo: John Davies 1999.

<b>Elevation (metres above sea level)</b>	60-120
<b>Average rainfall p.a. (mm)</b>	650-700
<b>Topography</b>	Gently undulating rises, low hills and peneplains
<b>Geology</b>	Tertiary fan deposits
<b>Soils</b>	Light grey, gravelly clay loam of moderate to high fertility with a pale yellow clay sub-soil. EVC occurs in Coongulla soil group (Sargeant and Imhof 2000)
<b>Related/adjacent EVCs/FCs</b>	Lowland Forest, <i>Gippsland Plains</i> Grassy Woodland, Shrubby Dry Forest
<b>Present land use</b>	Residential subdivision, minor forest produce, honey production, nature conservation, recreation
<b>Present distribution</b>	Restricted to areas around Lake Glenmaggie, Seaton and scattered remnants east to Valencia Creek
<b>Examples of sites/quadrats/lists</b>	Blores Hill State Forest, Heyfield (O36564), Glenmaggie Flora and Fauna Reserve (O36559)
<b>Total Area(ha)/ Number of polygons</b>	3,592/180



**Vegetation: structure/floristics:**

*Gippsland Plains* Box Ironbark Forest mostly contains Red Ironbark *Eucalyptus tricarpa* and Red Box *E. polyanthemos* subsp. *vestita* as the common overstorey trees. Other eucalypts sometimes present include White Stringybark *E. globoidea*, Yellow Box *E. melliodora* and Apple-topped Box/But But *E. angophoroides/bridgesiana*.

The mid storey typically consists of Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha* forming a dense to open small tree layer which has a high fidelity to this EVC. The shrub layer consists of Shiny Cassinia *Cassinia longifolia* and the ubiquitous shrub, Burgan *Kunzea ericoides* forming moderate to dense thickets.

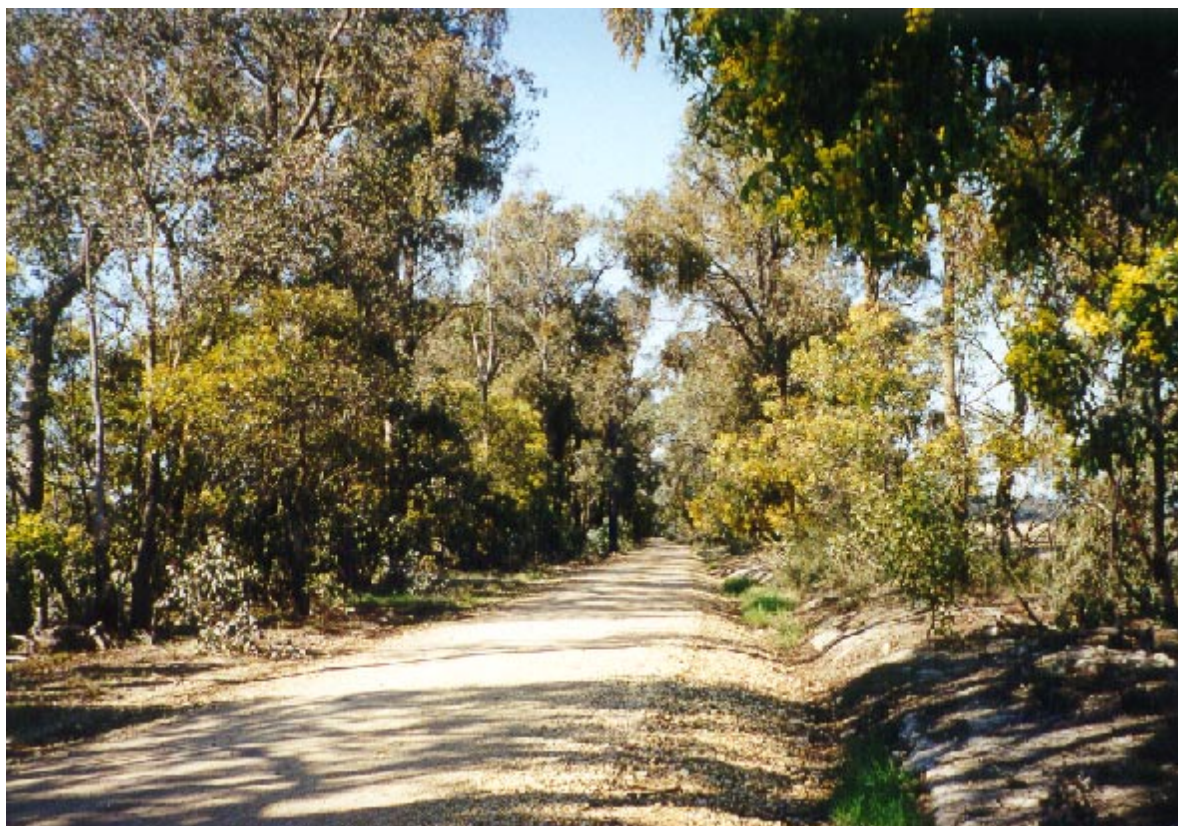
The understorey is mostly open in nature with a distinct array of small shrubs, herbs and grasses. Common shrubs are the prostrate Peach Heath *Lissanthe strigosa*, Pomax *Pomax umbellata*, White Marianth *Rhytidosporum procumbens*, the prostrate Honey-pots *Acrotriche serrulata*, Gold-dust Wattle *Acacia acinacea*, Juniper Wattle *Acacia ulicifolia*, Rough-barked Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca parvistaminea*, Thyme Spurge *Phyllanthus hirtellus* and Juniper Wattle *Acacia ulicifolia*. Three *Pultenaea* species characterise the EVC, namely Alpine Bush-pea *P. fasciculata*, Loose-flower Bush-Pea *P. laxiflora* and Matted Bush-pea *P. pedunculata* but at a lower frequency of occurrence.

Herbs present include Hill Saltbush *Einadia trigonis*, Wiry Buttons *Leptorhyncos tenuifolius* and the Coast Daisy *Brachyscome parvula*. Grasses such as *Poa* spp., Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*, Veined Spear-grass *Austrostipa rudis* subsp. *nervosa*, Silvertop Wallaby-grass *Joycea pallida* and Purplish Wallaby-grass *Austrodanthonia tenuior* are common. Thatch Saw-sedge *Gahnia radula* is common and abundant in this vegetation and may become the dominant species in the understorey after frequent firing.

**Comments:**

*Gippsland Plains* Box Ironbark Forest is closely related to *Gippsland Plains* Grassy Woodland and Lowland Forest and probably exploits soils intermediate in fertility between them. *Gippsland Plains* Box Ironbark Forest also has some affinities with Shrubby Dry Forest, which occupies the foothill country immediately inland from this EVC and typically occurs on dry stony country associated with shallow soils developed on basement rock.

More fertile sites approach *Gippsland* Plains Grassy Woodland and support Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora*, particularly on lower slopes and flats whilst White Stringybark *E. globoidea*, Red Ironbark *E. tricarpa* and Red Box *E. polyanthemos* subsp. *vestita* occupy the less fertile gravelly profiles.



Box Ironbark Forest on McReady's Road just south of Seaton. Photo: John Davies 1999.

### Gippsland species list including species frequency and fidelity.

**Fidelity:** Rating of faithfulness of a species to an EVC or Floristic Community. Highest fidelity rating indicated by an "F" ie species only recorded in respective group

**% Frequency:** Percentage occurrence of a species/taxa in an EVC or Floristic Community – **NB. Species highlighted in red are the most frequent and important.**

\* = weed ie: non native

Rarity categories from NRE's Flora Information System (FIS).

**EVC 61-01:**

#### **GIPPSLAND PLAINS BOX IRONBARK FOREST**

<b>Lifeform</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>% Fr</b>	<b>F</b>
Trees	<i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i>	Red Ironbark	100	1208
	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i> ssp. <i>vestita</i>	Red Box	100	151
	<i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>	White Stringybark	50	22
	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	33	29
	<i>Eucalyptus angophoroides</i> / <i>bridgesiana</i>	Apple-topped Box/But But	17	3
Shrubs	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	100	303
	<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	Peach Heath	83	F
	<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	Shiny Cassinia	83	18
	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan	83	11
	<i>Rhytidosporum procumbens</i>	White Marianth	67	62

Lifeform	Scientific Name	Common Name	% Fr	F	
Herbs	<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Honey-pots	67	7	
	<i>Phyllanthus hirtellus</i>	Thyme Spurge	50	60	
	<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne Heath	50	22	
	<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath	50	9	
	<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-dust Wattle	33	F	
	<i>Pultenaea fasciculata</i>	Alpine Bush-pea	33	F	
	<i>Pultenaea laxiflora</i>	Loose-flower Bush-pea	33	F	
	<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	Juniper Wattle	33	404	
	<i>Melaleuca parvistaminea</i>	Rough-barked Honey-myrtle	33	403	
	<i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i>	Matted Bush-pea	33	201	
	<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Common Rice-flower	33	3	
	<i>Pultenaea largiflorens</i>	Twiggy Bush-pea	17	F	
	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	17	1	
	<i>Pomax umbellata</i>	Pomax	67	F	
	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Common Raspwort	67	2	
	<i>Lagenophora stipitata</i>	Common Bottle-daisy	50	2	
	<i>Einadia trigonos ssp. trigonos</i>	Lax Goosefoot	33	101	
	<i>Leptorhynchus tenuifolius</i>	Wiry Buttons	33	29	
	<i>Leptorhynchus linearis</i>	Shiny Buttons	33	21	
	<i>Senecio tenuiflorus</i>	Narrow Groundsel	33	21	
	<i>Opercularia varia</i>	Variable Stinkweed	33	3	
	<i>Brachyscome parvula</i>	Coast Daisy	17	202	
	<i>Einadia hastata</i>	Berry Saltbush	17	40	
	<i>Plantago gaudichaudii</i>	Narrow Plantain	17	6	
	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>	Sprawling Bluebell	17	1	
	Climbers/Vines	<i>Amyema miquelii</i>	Box Mistletoe	33	F
		<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	Love Creeper	17	1
	Other	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush	67	F
		<i>Lomandra filiformis ssp. coriacea</i>	Wattle Mat-rush	50	606
	Rushes	<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	Finger Rush	17	7
	Lilies	<i>Dianella brevicaulis/revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	67	5
		<i>Stypantra glauca</i>	Nodding Blue-lily	17	F
	<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i>	Slender Wire-lily	17	25	
	<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	Common Fringe-lily	17	15	
	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	Yellow Rush-lily	17	2	
Sedges	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	Variable Sword-sedge	67	7	
	<i>Gahnia radula</i>	Thatch Saw-sedge	67	3	
Grasses	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass	100	4	
	<i>Poa</i> sp.	Tussock Grass	100	2	
	<i>Austrostipa rudis</i> ssp. <i>nervosa</i>	Veined Spear-grass	67	45	
	<i>Chionochloa pallida</i>	Silvertop Wallaby-grass	33	134	
	<i>Austrodanthonia tenuior</i>	Purplish Wallaby-grass	33	13	
e	<i>Echinopogon caespitosus</i>	Bushy Hedgehog-grass	17	F	
	<i>Notodanthonia longifolium</i>	Long-leaf Wallaby-grass	17	40	
	<i>Austrodanthonia geniculata</i>	Kneed Wallaby-grass	17	15	
	<i>Austrodanthonia racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	Stiped Wallaby-grass	17	3	
	<i>Austrostipa rudis</i>	Veined Spear-grass	17	3	